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SUBJECT House Intelligence Committee Study

MORTON DEAN: The House Intelligence Committee has released a staff report that is critical of U. S. intelligence agencies.

Robert Pierpoint has the story.

ROBERT PIERPOINT: The report points out that when former Secretary of State Alexander Haig charged last March that the civil war in El Salvador was controlled by non-Salvadorans, the intelligence community gave the committee no facts to back up that charge. Instead, the report says, during an extensive closed committee briefing by intelligence experts, the CIA was only able to confirm that the El Salvador guerrillas used sites in Nicaragua for certain logistical operations and were supported by Nicaragua and Cuba.

The briefing, which was designed in part to reinforce Haig's charge, did not even address the issue of the extent of control by non-Salvadorans, a point which the report explains remains subject to differing interpretations.

The report strongly implies that some analysis by intelligence experts on Central America was slanted to fit policy rather than the facts. The committee, while praising the U. S. intelligence community for overall competence, expresses concern that the faults it did find, quote, "may signal an environment in which decisions occur is under pressure to reinforce policy or to oppose it rather than to inform it."

Robert Pierpoint, CBS News, Washington.

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